

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15
STR-04 /128 W

-----011001 087662 /22

R 010743Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5679

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0445

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EIND, EINB, PFOR, SF, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH LABOR PRACTICES SURVEY

REF: LONDON 2863

1. FEBRUARY 27 EDITION
OF JOHANNESBURG SUNDAY TIMES CARRIES FOLLOWING ACCOUNT
OF BRITISH TRADE DEPARTMENT SURVEY OF 184 FIRMS OPERATING
IN SOUTH AFRICA.

BEGIN QUOTE.

AFTER REQUESTING EACH OF THE 184 BRITISH COMPANIES TRADING
IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO EMPLOY MORE THAN 20 AFRICANS TO SUPPLY
DETAILED INFORMATION ON THEIR PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS,
THE BRITISH TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS NO
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FIRM PLANS TO PROCESS THIS INFORMATION.
RATHER IT WILL LEAVE THIS TASK TO WHAT IT TERMS THE
'CONCERNED PUBLIC' TO SEE WHETHER THE COMPANIES ARE
COMPLYING WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT GUIDE-
LINES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

OF THE 184 COMPANIES WHO WERE ASKED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION

160 HAVE COMPLIED EITHER BY PUBLISHING FIGURES OR
PROMISING TO PUBLISH DETAILS IN THEIR NEXT ANNUAL REPORTS.

SIX COMPANIES REFUSED TO PUBLISH, WHILE 18 ARE SAID TO
HAVE PROVIDED LIMITED INFORMATION. THE LATTER INCLUDE
SOME OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES TRADING IN THE REPUBLIC

COMMENTING ON THE FAILURE OF THESE COMPANIES TO FURNISH
FULL INFORMATION, EDMUD DELL, THE BRITISH TRADE
SECRETARY SAID: 'THEY ARE NOT GIVING PARLIAMENT AND THE
CONCERNED PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY OF JUDGING FOR THEM-
SELVES WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN THE TREATMENT
OF AFRICAN LABOUR.' END QUOTE.JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, SURVEYS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN00445
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770069-1139
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703106/aaaadpqq.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d0828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 2863
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2953269
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH LABOR PRACTICES SURVEY
TAGS: ELAB, EIND, EINV, PFOR, SF, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d0828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009